5/15/71

Dear Lou,

Your silence has not been surprising, but it has been a disappointment. It is more comprehensible with my having gotten word that Jim has letit be known that he prefers I not return to N.O. This will not have any effect on my going there is I feel the need and it is possible. It will influence other things, such as what I may, should the need develop, be willing to do. Im can anticipate some such needs. Especially with the self-destruction involved in his seeking help from ~~xxxxx~~ nuts.

I write for two other reasons. I do not have John Joerg's address since he moved. I have now obtained a copy of an FBI report about it. I was not able to get it before. I do not know whether or not he wants it. If and when you see him, tell him if he does, I'll send it to him. It says almost nothing about him, but it does involve him in what can be a wierd business. I have read it in haste only and have not reread what is relevant that I already had.

The other is about a clipping in yesterday's Washington Post. It reports the filing of suit against Justice, Mitchell, Kleindienst, the Washington police, its cheif, etc., by a number of people claiming false arrest and personal abuse during the peace demonstrations, there were many real cases, for there was a swoop involving perhaps 10,000, including a psychiatrist and a number of his patients, reporters for major papers, etc. One of those who filed this case, with a real co-out, self-seeking "liberal", Joe Rauh, former head of Americans for Democratic Action, heading of team of three lawyers (probably his firm, for one I know is his partner), is described as "Appalachian Information Service reporter Thomas N. Bethell."

There is an Appalachian Service, Inc., in the National Press Bldg. (628-2188). The home listing (2900 Connecticut Ave., NW) is 265-8831.

About the other things of which I've written you and you have not responded, I do not embarrass you with further reference save what I think it serves your personal information to know, that my work and knowledge has advanced considerably, and thatif there is innocence, you are making it impossible for that to be established.

Best regards,

15 Sue Over Arrests During City Disorder

By Robert F. Levey
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fifteen Washingtonians who were arrested during antiwar traffic-blocking in Washington May 3 sued Attorney General John N. Mitchell and Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson yesterday, charging that their arrests were illegal and part of a government conspiracy.

The suit demands $900,000 in damages, the nullification of all charges against the 15 persons and destruction of all their arrest and jail records.

It calls the plaintiffs' arrests "false and unreasonable," the charges placed against them "malicious and wholly unsupported" and their imprisonment "deliberate or negligent."

It adds that the defendants had engaged in "a predetermined conspiracy . . . to disregard and deny the legal and constitutional rights of citizens."

The 15 plaintiffs include eight college and graduate students, a law professor, an attorney, an educator, an editor, a reporter, a free-lance writer and a divinity student who was serving on May 3 as a volunteer medic.

According to the suit, all were standing or walking near Dupont Circle, George Washington University, Georgetown or lower Connecticut Avenue when they were arrested.

"Each of the plaintiffs was . . . arrested, detained and incarcerated, charged with an offense, held for protracted periods . . . and subject to physical assaults and deprivations while so held, . . . although he had committed no violation of law, nor intended to commit any violation," the suit says.

Besides Mitchell and Wilson, it names as defendants Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, the District government and the Washington policemen who made the arrests.

Neither the Justice Department, the police department nor the city government would comment on the suit yesterday. It was filed by attorneys Joseph L. Rauh Jr., John Silard and Elliott C. Lichtman.

According to the suit, one plaintiff, Cynthia E. Turk, a George Washington University student, "called the administrative building . . . in order to check whether the campus was 'quiet' and whether she could therefore attend classes."

Told that it was, Miss Turk "walked toward a university building," the suit says, "only to be arrested."

"The arrest was without cause and was made without informing her of any charge against her," the suit says. Later, it adds, she was jailed for 16 hours "suffering overcrowded and inhumane conditions."

After the arrest of Douglas R. Hanscom, a GW law student, on the GW campus, "an attorney, a friend and plaintiff's wife all sought to learn of plaintiff's whereabouts . . . in order to secure his prompt release," the suit says. But "defendants intentionally or negligently failed to provide the location," it adds.

The plaintiffs were listed on the suit as GW law professor Roger S. Kuhn, attorney Russell B. Stevenson Jr., GW law student Thomas G. Wood, Evening Star editor Angus W. Phillips, free-lance writer Maria Braden, Appalachian Information Service reporter Thomas N. Bethell, University of Maryland student John F. Jones, GW law student John M. Cleland, Miss Turk, Wesley Theological Seminary student Michael E. Lee, educator Michael H. Krepon, GW student Mark C. Donovan, GW student Helene Alankoff and GW law students Hanscom and Mark S. Ross.

Meanwhile, a check of court records and other sources revealed that about 6,800 persons arrested last week during traffic disruptions remain to be processed in the city's courts. About 400 others have been processed so far this week, court records show.